People's Republic of China may be associated as Observer. The Summit further decided that the modalities regarding Observer status will be decided at the twenty-seventh meeting of the SAARC Council of Minister in July, 2006.

Electric detonators with Indian Nationals

1797. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian nationals were carrying 61,858 electric detonators for L.T.T.E. on 25th January, 2006; and

(b) whether there is any co-relation between this and off loading of six containers of explosives in sea by MV Egria in December, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) According to the reports available with this Ministry, the Sri Lankan Navy intercepted a fishing dhow on January 25, 2006 in Sri Lankan territorial waters, and found 5 Indian fishermen with 61,056 electric detonators in their possession.

(b) There is no information available in this regard.

Acquisition of land for Foreign Mission

1798. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 2003-04, there have been gross lack of diligence by his Ministry in the matters of acquisition of properties abroad as well as in India for its missions and sub-ordinate offices;

(b) whether Government have also failed to acquire land in Addis Ababa and Algiers on reciprocal basis from the Government of Ethiopia and Algeria;

(c) whether Government have in place a mechanism to exercise effective control over missions/posts abroad to ensure avoidance of irregular expenditure on rented accommodation in excess of prescribed rental ceilings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?